

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A process for making a stable colloid for gene transfer comprising  
providing a colloid comprising an aqueous phase having suspended therein a DNA complex which consists of DNA sequestered within cationic lipids or cationic polymers and which has a cationic surface potential, and  
converting the cationic surface potential of the DNA complex to a neutral or net anionic surface potential by reacting the cationic lipids or the cationic polymers in the DNA complex with a reagent selected from the group consisting of citraconic anhydride and N-hydroxysuccinimide acetate to reduce, remove or reverse said cationic surface potential to form a stable colloid for gene transfer.

Claims 2 to 6 (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein said cationic lipids or cationic polymers are selected from the group consisting of linear polyamines, and branched polyamines ~~and polyamines comprising guanidinium groups.~~

Claims 8 to 13 (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, wherein said reagent is only reacted with cationic head groups of said cationic lipids or cationic polymers on the surface of said complex.

15. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, wherein said reagent is reacted with cationic head groups of said cationic lipids or cationic polymers on the surface of and in the interior of said complex.

Claims 16 to 32 (Canceled)

33. (New) The process of claim 7, wherein said cationic lipids or cationic polymers are polyamines comprising guanidinium groups.
34. (New) A process for making a stable colloid for gene transfer comprising providing a colloid comprising an aqueous phase having suspended therein a DNA complex which consists of DNA sequestered within cationic lipids or cationic polymers and a targeting ligand covalently attached to said cationic lipids or cationic polymers, and which has a cationic surface potential, and  
converting the cationic surface potential of the DNA complex to a neutral or net anionic surface potential by reacting the cationic lipids or the cationic polymers in the DNA complex with a reagent selected from the group consisting of citraconic anhydride and N-hydroxysuccinimide acetate to reduce, remove or reverse said cationic surface potential to form a stable colloid for gene transfer.
35. (New) The process of claim 34, wherein said cationic lipids or cationic polymers are selected from the group consisting of linear polyamines and branched polyamines.

36. (New) The process of claim 34, wherein said reagent is only reacted with cationic head groups of said cationic lipids or cationic polymers on the surface of said complex.
37. (New) The process of claim 35, wherein said cationic lipids or cationic polymers are polyamines comprising guanidinium groups.
38. (New) The process of claim 34, wherein said reagent is reacted with cationic head groups of said cationic lipids or cationic polymers on the surface of and in the interior of said complex.